
GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

Aquifer: An underground, water-bearing layer of porous rock, sand, or gravel.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR): The injection of fresh water into a confined saline aquifer during times when supply exceeds demand (wet season), and recovering it during times when there is a supply deficit (dry season).

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Land, agricultural, industrial, and waste management techniques that reduce pollutant export from a specified area.

Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF Project): A complete system of canals, storage areas, and water control structures spanning the area from Lake Okeechobee to both the east and west coasts and from Orlando south to the Everglades. It was designed and constructed during the 1950s by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to provide flood control and improve navigation and recreation.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP): The framework and guide for the restoration, protection, and preservation of the South Florida ecosystem. CERP also provides for water-related needs of the region, such as water supply and flood protection.

Consumptive Use Permit (CUP): A permit issued by the SFWMD under authority of Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C., allowing withdrawal of water for consumptive use.

Critical Restoration Projects: Seven projects determined to be critical to the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem, which were authorized in 1996, prior to CERP. These are comparatively small restoration projects undertaken by the USACE and the SFWMD, and are being implemented along with CERP projects.

District Water Management Plan (DWMP): Regional water resource plan developed by the District under Chapter 373.036, Florida Statutes.

Environmental Resource Permit (ERP): A permit issued by the SFWMD under authority of Chapter 40E-4 F.A.C. to ensure that land development projects do not cause adverse environmental, water quality, or water quantity impacts.

Estuary: The part of the wide lower course of a river where its current is met by ocean tides or an arm of the sea at the lower end of a river where fresh and salt water meet.

Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA): An area extending south from Lake Okeechobee to the northern levee of WCA-3A, from its eastern boundary at the L-8 canal to the western boundary along the L-1, L-2, and L-3 levees. The EAA incorporates almost 3,000 square kilometers (1,158 square miles) of highly productive agricultural land.

Everglades Construction Project: Twelve interrelated construction projects located between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. The cornerstone of the ECP is six large constructed wetlands known as Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs). They use naturally occurring biological processes to reduce phosphorus that enters the Everglades. The ECP also contains four hydropattern restoration projects that will improve the volume, timing, and distribution of water entering the Everglades.

Everglades Protection Area (EPA): A 1994 Florida law (Section 373.4592, Florida Statutes), amended in 2003, to promote Everglades restoration and protection. This will be achieved through comprehensive and innovative solutions to issues of water quality, water quantity, hydroperiod, and invasion of exotic species to the Everglades ecosystem. The EPA establishes the plan, the enforceable schedule, and the funding for the various components of the Everglades Program.

Everglades Stormwater Program (ESP): A program to ensure that water quality standards are met at all structures not included in the Everglades Construction Project.

Fiscal Year (FY): The South Florida Water Management District's fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 the following year.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP): The SFWMD operates under the general supervisory authority of the FDEP, which includes budgetary oversight.

Florida Statutes (F.S.): The Florida Statutes are a permanent collection of state laws organized by subject area into a code made up of titles, chapters, parts, and sections. The Florida Statutes are updated annually by laws that create, amend, or repeal statutory material.

Groundwater: Water beneath the soil surface, whether or not flowing through known and definite channels.

Levee: An embankment to prevent flooding or a continuous dike or ridge for confining the irrigation areas of land to be flooded.

Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs): Florida law (Chapter 373, Florida Statutes) requires the state's water management districts to set water levels for each major body of water "...at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area."

National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD): A nationally established reference for elevation data.

Performance Measure: Performance measures quantify how well or how poorly an alternative meets a specific objective. Good performance measures are quantifiable, have a specific target, indicate when a target has been reached, and measure the degree to which the goal has been met.

RECOVER: A comprehensive monitoring and adaptive assessment program formed to perform the following for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: restoration, coordination, and verification.

Regional Water Supply Plan: Detailed water supply plan developed by the District under Section 373.0361, Florida Statutes, providing an evaluation of available water supply and projected demands at the regional scale. The planning process projects future demand for 20 years and develops strategies to meet identified needs.

Reservoir: A man-made or natural water body used for water storage.

Save Our Rivers (SOR): In 1981, the Florida Legislature created the Save Our Rivers program for the water management districts to acquire environmentally sensitive land. The legislation produced Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, known as the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

Slough: A channel in which water moves sluggishly, or a place of deep muck, mud or mire. Sloughs are wetland habitats that serve as channels for water draining off surrounding uplands and/or wetlands.

Storm Water: Surface water resulting from rainfall runoff that does not percolate into the ground or evaporate.

Stormwater Treatment Area (STA): A large, constructed wetland designed to remove pollutants, particularly nutrients, from stormwater runoff using natural processes.

Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan: A plan prepared pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes.

Surface Water: Water that flows, falls, or collects above the soil or substrate surface.

Wastewater: The waterborne discharge from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants, and institutions together with any groundwater, surface runoff, or leachate that may be present.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs): Diked areas of the remnant Everglades that are hydrologically controlled for flood control and water supply purposes. The primary targets of the Everglades restoration, and major components of the Everglades Protection Area.

Watershed: The drainage area from which all surface water drains to a common receiving water body system.

Wetland: An area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions (for example, swamps, bogs, and marshes).